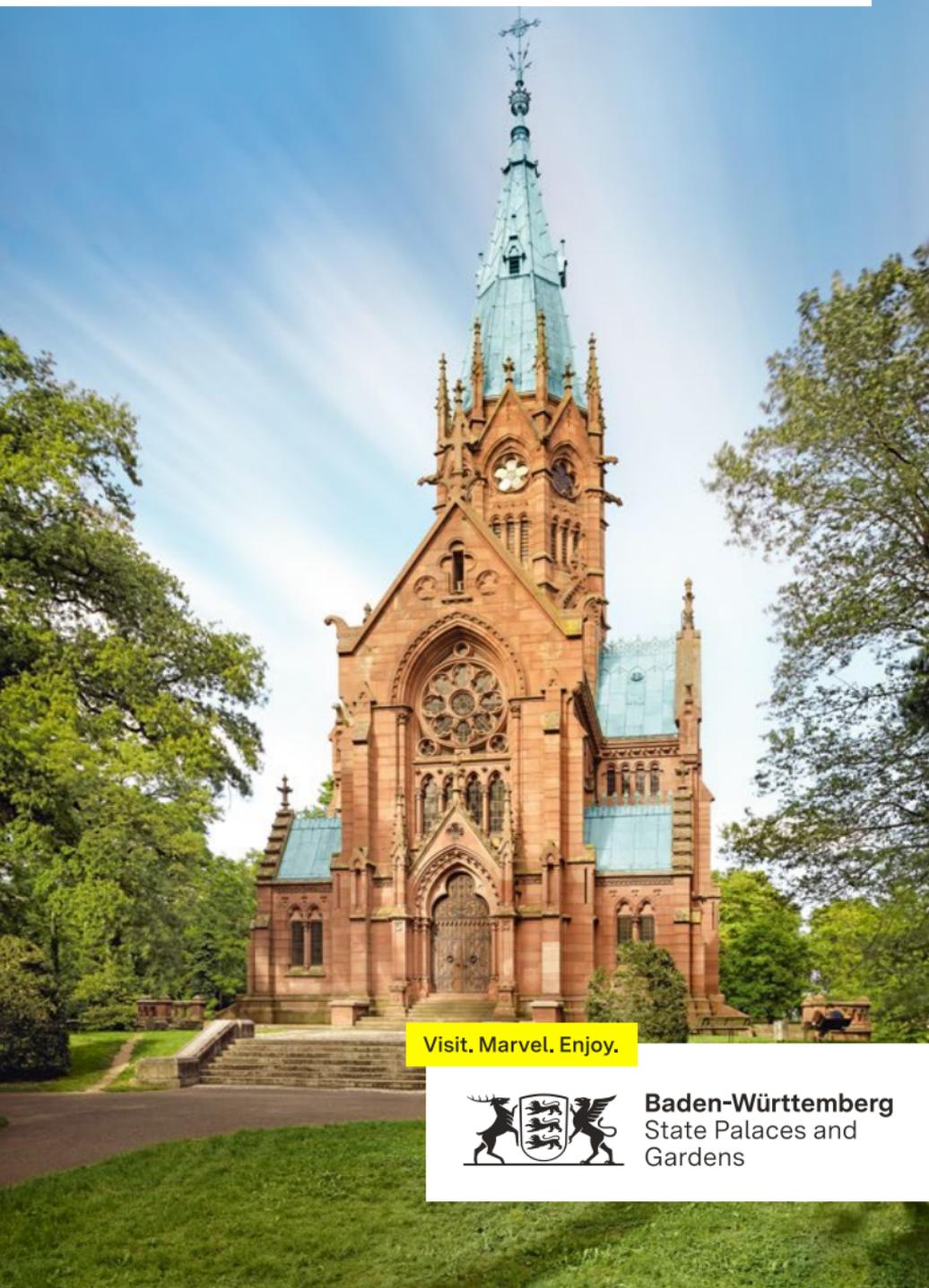




# Sepulchral Chapel of the Grand Duchy

A SIGNIFICANT MONUMENT TO  
THE REGION'S HISTORY



Visit. Marvel. Enjoy.



**Baden-Württemberg**  
State Palaces and  
Gardens

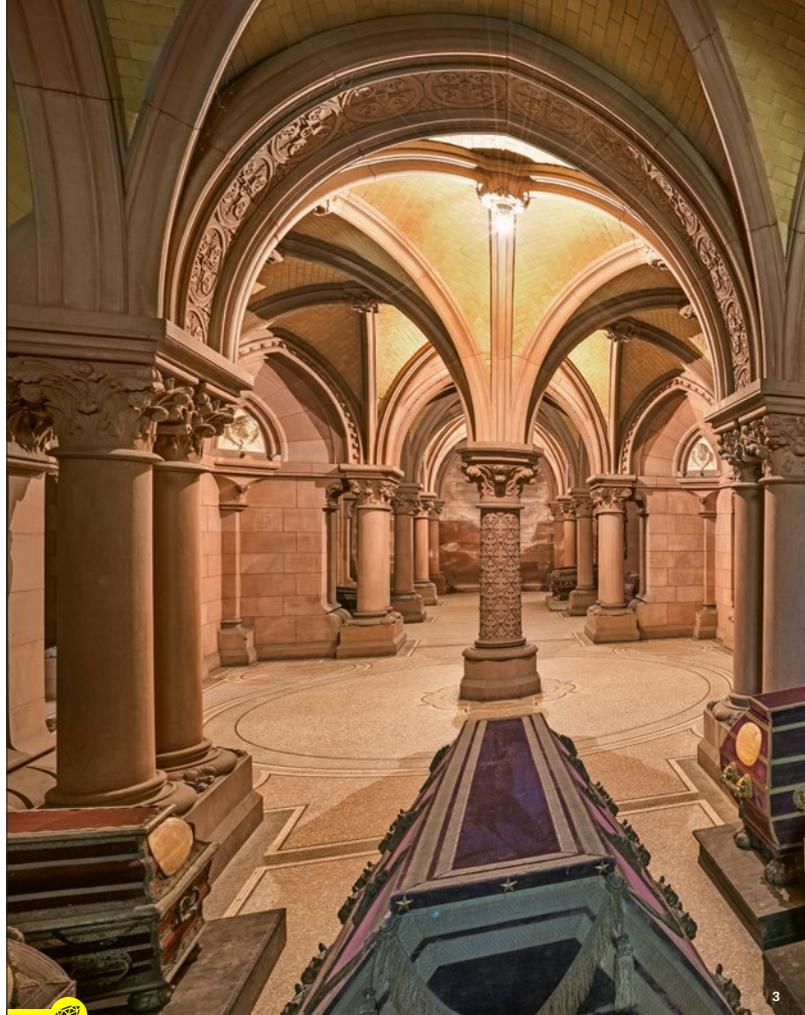
**In the heart of the Hardtwald forest, at the end of the tree-lined Lärchenallee, lies the atmospheric sepulchral chapel, the only edifice built during the Grand Duchy in Karlsruhe to have survived World War II unscathed.**

Located at the edge of the *Fasanengarten (Peacock Gardens)* in Karlsruhe, the mausoleum is one of the region's most significant historical monuments, and is the burial site of five of the seven grand dukes of Baden.

#### **A place of privacy for Baden's rulers**

The mausoleum was commissioned by Grand Duke Friedrich I of Baden and his wife, Luise of Prussia. They wanted their son, who died in 1888, to rest in the "*secluded tranquillity of the woods*". Until this time, the rulers of Baden had been buried in the castle church of St. Michael in Pforzheim or in the crypt of the Karlsruhe town church – places that the Grand Duke and his wife could not visit

A touching sight: Three snowy-white marble cenotaphs are located on the main floor of the chapel; pictured here, that of Prince Ludwig Wilhelm



The lower floor of the chapel with the burial place; its 19th century architect was inspired by the High Gothic style

without being on public display. The discreet family chapel was a statement of the separation between their public and private lives. The sepulchral chapel was modelled after *the mausoleum in the park of the Charlottenburg Palace in Berlin*. That mausoleum was constructed in 1810 for Queen Luise of Prussia, the grandmother of the Grand Duchess.

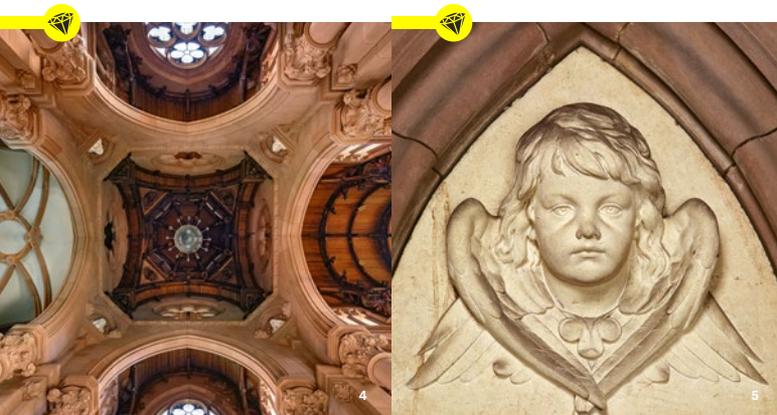
# Visitor information

## An artistic and architectural masterpiece

The architect, Friedrich Hemberger, fashioned the red sandstone structure with the flourishes of early Gothic style. Spires, gargoyles and dragons carved by the imaginative local sculptor, Wilhelm Sauer, decorate the building.

Flooded with light, the interior of the main floor of the chapel features rows of columns, one on top of the other; the top row is made of shimmering black labradorite. Here you can admire Mourners' heads, carved from light yellow limestone, and other decorative elements are on display here. The transepts of the chapel are home to *three cenotaphs* (empty tombs that act as monuments) for Grand Duke Friedrich I, his wife Luise of Prussia and their son Ludwig Wilhelm. These cenotaphs were created from white Carrara marble by the Karlsruhe sculptor, Hermann Volz. From the main floor of the church, a wide stairway leads down into the crypt. This houses the three magnificent coffins of Prince Ludwig Wilhelm, Grand Duke Friedrich I and his wife Luise of Prussia, as well as another 15 coffins of members of the house of Baden. The sepulchral chapel ensemble includes the former guard house on the Klosterweg (monastery road). This is where the present-day visitor center is located, along with the ticket office and shop, as well as information about the burial place and the grand duke and duchess interred there.

A view of the impressive crossing in the upper church (left)  
A mournful angel by sculptor Fidel Binz in the lower church (right)



## Opening hours and guided tours

**Main Floor** Open on a seasonal basis;  
Visits possible with or without a guided tour

**Crypt** Open on a seasonal basis;  
Viewing only possible as part of a special tour

Please check our website or call our hotline on +49 7251 74-27 70 before your visit to find out current opening and closing times.

Our website also provides information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details relevant to your visit.

## Current information



### At a glance

For details of our current opening times, tours, events, admission prices and catering, see:  
[www.grabkapelle-karlsruhe.de/en/visitor-information](http://www.grabkapelle-karlsruhe.de/en/visitor-information)

## Contact and information

### Sepulchral Chapel of the Grand Duchy

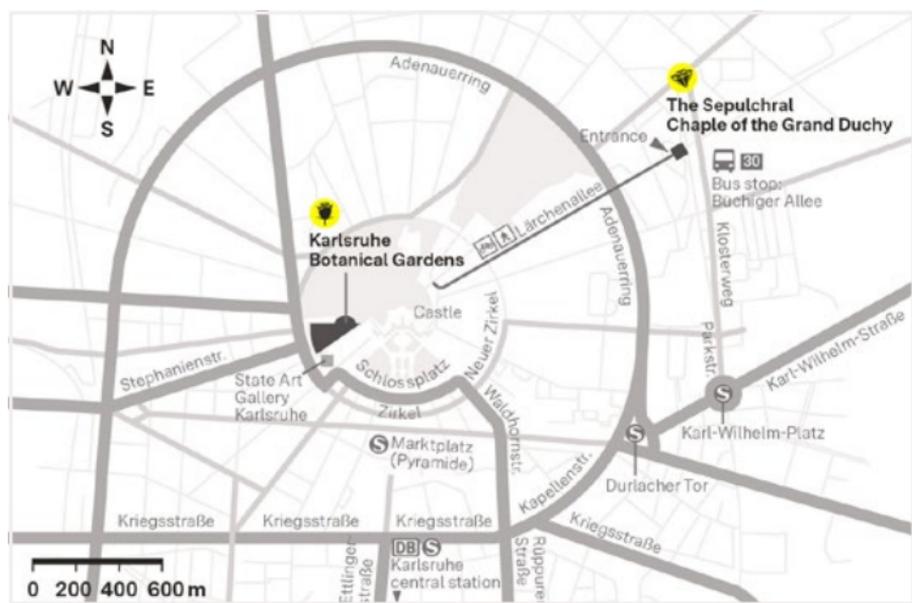
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### Information and special tour registration

Service Center Schlösser Touren GbR  
Phone +49 6221 6 58 88-0  
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## How to find us



By public transport: Take the tram to the “Marktplatz” stop and walk from there to the Palace and Palace Gardens and then directly along the “Lärchenallee” to the Sepulchral Chapel (approx. 1 km from the Palace); or take the tram to the “Durlacher Tor” stop and then bus number 30 to the “Büchiger Allee” stop. Directions by car: via Klosterweg (up to house no.11). Further information, including on charging stations, can be found online.

## Information about all our monuments

### Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg

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76646 Bruchsal, Germany

Phone +49 7251 74-27 70  
Daily 8:00 AM–8:00 PM  
(information only,  
no reservations/ticket sales)  
info@ssg.bwl.de



[www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en](http://www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en)

Image credit SSG/LMZ: cover photo, 1, 2, 3, 4, Günther Bayerl; 5 Author unknown; 6 Achim Mende // Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de